

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. 102(e) Rejection

Claims 1 – 12 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,444,214, issued to Cole. Cole discloses a solution polymer comprising polymers that are soluble when diluted with certain salt solutions. The solution polymer is useful as a binder for fibers that disperse when exposed to certain salt solutions. When exposed to such salt solutions, the solution polymers of Cole dissolve and the fibers then disperse. In contrast to Cole, the present application discloses an emulsion binder that comprises a water-dispersible, not soluble, polymer. The fibers of a non-woven material having the emulsion binder of the present application disperse upon the dispersion, not dissolution, of the binder. Cole further discloses dispersible polymer formulations, however the polymers themselves in the formulations are not dispersible, as are those of the present invention, and the formulations are only dispersible due to the addition of dispersible additives such as wetting agents and plasticizers. These additives are required to use the polymer formulations of Cole in a solution. Overall, there is a significant difference between a polymer that dissolves and one that disperses into discrete particles that are not dissolved. As anticipation requires identity of invention, in view of the differences between Cole and the present invention it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 12 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Cole.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If there are any issues that the Examiner wishes to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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